

**Farmer Smith's Column**

**SINCERITY**  
My dear little soldiers on the battle of life—the only person you can fool in this world is YOURSELF.  
Paint a house.  
The cracks, the nailheads, even the name over the door are gone—a bright color covers them.  
How beautiful!  
Then the rain comes and the snow and the hail and the wind. They beat upon the house, and the paint begins to go. The name shows once more and the cracks and nailheads.  
"Nothing is hidden that shall not be revealed."  
Are you sincere?  
Do you mean what you say?  
I wish so much you would write me a postal card and sign it, "Yours sincerely."  
How many mean it when they write it?  
What is YOUR idea of SINCERITY? The house as it stood at first was ITSELF. The paint made it look new. Was it a new house?  
Wonder! Tell me YOUR idea of SINCERITY. Your loving Editor,  
**FARMER SMITH.**

**WOODLAND STORIES**

**THE FOOTPRINTS**

By Farmer Smith

Tap. Tap. Tap.  
**BANG!**  
"Whose there?" asked a timid voice from the Ducks' home.  
"It is I, Billy Bumpus. Open in the name of the law."  
"I wonder what is going on now?" asked Mother Duck as she rushed in from the kitchen.  
"It is Billy Bumpus," answered Father Duck, breathlessly.  
"Open the door—we have nothing to fear," replied Mother Duck.  
Father Duck went to the door and opened it. Billy Bumpus entered.  
"I have just been over to Mrs. Bantam's and made a thorough investigation, I mean, search. You might not understand the terms we detectives use. I have made a wonderful discovery." Billy felt proud.  
"You are a very wonderful fellow, anyway," ventured Mother Duck.  
Billy swelled up at this and then said: "I am very sorry to inconvenience you, but all of you, babies and all, must hold up your feet and let me take their measure, for I have discovered that there are duck footprints inside and outside Mrs. Bantam's house and I want to be sure that YOU are not the guilty ones."  
"You will not tickle our feet, will you?" asked Baby June.  
At this they all laughed.  
"STOP!" exclaimed Billy. "This is no laughing matter—it is serious."  
"It is indeed a serious thing to examine our feet," laughed Father Duck.  
The ducks put chairs all in a row and sat down. Baby June was in her highchair and the rest moved into a circle. Billy took his handkerchief and began measuring the ducks' feet.  
"Would it not be a good idea to put down our measurements?" asked Father Duck.  
"You have a good memory, no doubt, but ducks' feet vary and how do you know that the footprints were made by the feet of wild ducks?"  
"That's a detective's business. In the name of the law I ask you to be quiet." Father Duck could hardly keep from laughing.  
When Billy came to Baby June's feet, he measured both of them and then gave them a gentle tickle.  
"Duch!" said Baby June.  
"Please remember to look for the tickle when you go back," said Mother Duck.

**Your Country Needs You: Where You Can Enlist**

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Frankford avenue and Orthodox street.  
Chelton and Germantown avenues.  
Eight and Christian streets.

**United States Navy**  
Recruiting stations:  
Leder Central.  
Mayor's office, City Hall.  
1310 Arch street.  
Philadelphia Navy Yard.  
1409 Arch street.  
Postoffice.  
989 Spring Garden street.  
2205 Island road.  
Fifty-second and Irving streets.

**United States Marine Corps**  
Evening Ledger office.  
1409 Arch street.  
Broad and Filbert streets.  
Postoffice.  
Thirteenth and Arch streets.

**Pennsylvania National Guard**  
First Regiment Armory, Broad and Callowhill streets.  
Third Regiment Armory, Broad and Wharton streets.  
Recruits also taken at other local armories.

**Naval Coast Defense Reserve**  
Independence Hall, Independence Square.

Mayor's office, City Hall.  
United States Naval Home, Fitzwater street and Gray's Ferry road.  
1310 Arch street.  
Philadelphia Navy Yard.  
Liberty Building.  
Crozer Building.

**Pennsylvania Women's Division for National Preparedness and of American Red Cross**  
Headquarters, 221 South Eighth street.

**Military Training Camps' Association**  
Headquarters, 117 Commercial Trust Building.

**Philadelphia Military Training Corps**  
Drexel Biddle Bible Class headquarters, 1917 Mt. Vernon street.

**United Boys' Brigade of America**  
Headquarters, 2310 North Lambert street.

**Girl Scouts of America**  
Headquarters, 36 South Seventeenth street.

"They all laughed and Billy shouted: 'Silence!'"  
"Keep quiet, everybody. How can a good detective work with so much noise?" Father Duck gave Billy another poke.  
Finally all the feet were measured and then Billy went silently out of the door.  
It seemed a very long time to the duck family, but Billy returned at length and after letting him in, the family sat down once more.  
"I am sorry to tell you," began Billy slowly, "that I have discovered that this family is GUILTY!" With that he turned and went out the door.

**BACKYARD GARDENS OFFER GOOD RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES**

Even Tiny Space Can Be Turned to Profit With Tomatoes and Beans—Best to Buy Plants for Urban Agriculture—Methods and Costs—Queries

By JOHN BARTRAM

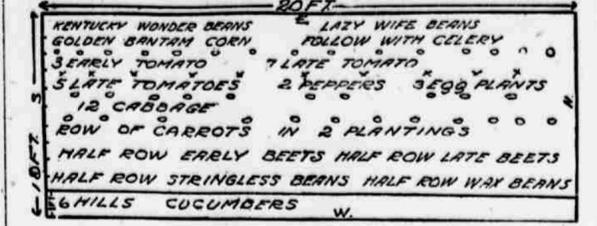


Diagram offers suggestion for planting area 10 by 20 feet.

What about city back-yard gardening? Even a city yard of the smallest dimensions, say 10 by 12 feet, will yield profitable results through planting two or three kinds of vegetables that mature early and keep bearing.

Lima beans or climbing beans such as Kentucky Wonder (string), Lazy Wife (string), Golden Cluster (wax) or Yellow Kentucky Wonder (wax) can be trained on twine or wires along the fence. If there are four sides available this would mean nearly fifty feet of space. Possibly peas might be put in first on half the space, and when these were through the ground (after fertilizing with some commercial preparation containing nitrogenous elements) could be put into beans also.

There should be room for five or six rows of about a foot and a half distance and twelve feet long. One or two of these could be planted with early and dwarf late tomatoes; it is surprising how much fruit a dozen plants will yield. The ordinary tomatoes are really vines and would range over too much territory for use.

**WHAT CAN BE GROWN**

A row of Swiss chard would give pickings of one of the tenderest and most delicious of greens, better than spinach, from bearing time till frost. The leaves of this can be cut time after time and the stalks can be used like asparagus.

Possibly on one of the fences could be trained the Japanese climbing cucumber, which grows upward instead of as a ground vine.

Beets are also easy to grow by the gardener of limited space. If it is not feasible to train beans along the fence there are several varieties of dwarf beets—the green-pod stringless, the black pencil pod, the rust-proof golden wax, Currier's wax, etc.—which grow upright and bear prolifically. There are also excellent dwarf or bush limas.

Eggplants and peppers are also very possible in the limited garden. Three of the former and one or two of the latter, taking up a twelve-foot long row, will furnish all that a small family will care for to vary the daily menu.

Onions in sets will soon give scallions and later bulbs and can be planted closely.

**SUCCESSION CROPS**

When some of the things are through their season, such as peas or early tomatoes or beets, after midsummer, the ground can be put into celery, one of the golden self-blanching kinds, and a twelve-foot row should give space enough for two dozen plants, certainly enough for two meals a week up till the early part of January.

Letting of an upright growth, such as Custer or Roman, can be planted up till July and then from mid-August till frost, this not flourishing in the very hot and droughty spell.

Frequent plantings of radishes can be made throughout the season.

**BRING your problems of gardening to the EVENING LEDGER for solution.**

In addition to practical articles, timely to the season, the editor will answer, either out of his own experience as a small-scale gardener or through consultation with authorities, questions of readers. Address John Bartram, EVENING LEDGER, Philadelphia.

Replantings of beets and beans can be made also throughout the season.

It will thus be seen that much can be done even in a minimum garden. Most yards of those who desire to "farm" are likely to be larger. In this happy case it is possible to have more rows and maybe longer rows. More extensive crops will be possible. Other things can be introduced, such as cabbage, which should have about two feet between plants. More tomato plants can be profitably used to allow some for canning. More beans also, for the same purpose.

dry soil for the winter in the cellar in coolest, driest and darkest part, but where it will not be subject to freezing weather.

In the case of a garden of this sort it is most advisable to buy the plants. Tomatoes cost from forty to sixty cents a dozen. Eggplants and peppers about the same. About a pint of peas would be needed, at thirty cents. Wax and string beans about the same quantity and price.

Celery would cost about sixty cents for fifty plants. Onion sets would be about thirty cents a quart. Beets, chard, lettuce, radish and other things, directly needed, would come at from five to ten cents a packet, which should be plenty, one of each, for the tiny garden.

Cabbage and cauliflower plants cost about a quarter or less a dozen.

All these prices are fairly but only approximately accurate, as prices vary with locality and dealer and with conditions in the seed market. For instance, this year there is a great shortage in all the beans, owing to the poor harvest last year. Last year it was the cabbage seed which was scarce.

The cabbage, like the celery, can be stored in wooden boxes in sand or ordinary garden soil.

**GARDEN QUERIES ANSWERED For Garden 50 by 100 Feet**

Mrs. Alice T.—You are fortunate in having so much space. Of course, you can plant all the things you say and a very large abundance, too, of such things as corn and tomatoes, that take up room in large quantity. Also the winter vegetables, such as celery, turnips, cabbage, cauliflower, etc., can be planted in quantities. Stable manure is very good for all-round fertilizer. It should have been spread before planting. It should have been spread before planting. However, you can drill some in the rows—that is, distribute a thin sprinkling at the bottom and cover it with a little earth before planting.

Also you can sprinkle a little on top of the rows after planting. I would say that you must devote a third to a half of the space to potatoes, since you have only a family of two and occasional company to provide for. A garden the size of yours will probably be too much for one woman to care for, so you ought to have some assistance, possibly half a day a week from a hired man, to give a good general tilling and weeding. I will print a plan soon, from which you can gain ideas, also an article on raising potatoes.

**Sweet Peas**

Ivanhoe—No. It is not too late to put in sweet peas. They are a hardy plant and thus stand early planting. But you can have a good lot of flowers by planting now. An ounce of seed will plant a twenty-foot row. You can buy mixed varieties for about twenty cents an ounce, or you can buy small packets at ten cents each of specially liked colors, white, rose, etc.

**Dahlias**

M. C. B.—It would be fatal to put the dahlias roots in the ground now. They are very liable to rot in wet and cold ground. Late April or early May will be time enough for them, when the weather is settled and the ground warm.

Dahlias roots will rot all winter, but to get good varieties in thirty days at fifteen cents apiece. Possibly a smaller size would be a good average for an amateur.

**Early Planting**

R. B.—If your ground is high and dry it can be worked now and early peas (Campion) can be sown. Extra Early Europa or Alaska early beets, onion sets and cabbage plants and radish put in by the window box. If they are overgrowing the quarters thin out, either throwing the extra side or transplanting to other boxes. Also put the boxes out during the sunny part of the day to harden them gradually for out of doors.

**Chester in Coal Famine; Prices High**

CHESTER, Pa., April 3.—Residents here can get little coal just now and prices have not been reduced. Dealers say they cannot replenish their stocks until after the middle of this month. At that time, it was promised a fifty-cent reduction will be in order.

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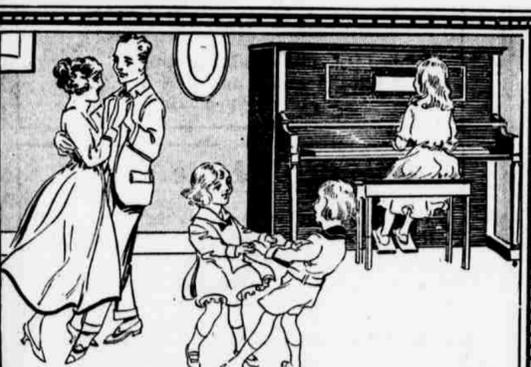
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Frank A. Vanderlip,  
President of the National City Bank, New York.



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